

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for improving the condition for elderly ~~pets~~ cats, the method comprising administering to the ~~pet~~ elderly cat an effective amount of a nutritional composition which contains a calcium source, and a source of vitamins D, E and K, and β-carotene ~~an antioxidant, being a vitamin precursor~~.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the nutritional composition includes a zinc source.

Claim 4 (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 in which nutritional composition is a nutritionally complete pet food.

Claim 5 (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the nutritional composition further comprises a prebiotic and/or a probiotic micro-organism.

Claim 6 (original) A method according to claim 5 in which the prebiotic is selected from the group of inulin, fructooligosaccharides and plant materials which contain inulin and/or fructooligosaccharides.

Claim 7 (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the nutritional composition further comprises a source of glutamine.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A method for increasing the longevity ~~or quality of life~~ of an elderly ~~pet~~ cat, the method comprising administering to the ~~pet~~ elderly cat an effective amount of a nutritional composition which contains a calcium source, vitamins D, E and K, and β-carotene ~~and a source of an antioxidant, being a vitamin precursor~~.

Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (previously presented) A method according to claim 8 in which the composition comprises a vitamin source providing vitamin E.

Claim 11 (previously presented) A method according to claim 8 in which the nutritional composition includes a zinc source.

Claim 12 (previously presented) A method according to claim 8 in which the nutritional composition is a nutritionally complete pet food.

Claim 13 (previously presented) A method according to claim 8 in which the nutritional composition further comprises a prebiotic and/or a probiotic micro-organism.

Claim 14 (original). A method according to claim 13 in which the prebiotic is selected from the group of inulin, fructooligosaccharides and plant materials which contain inulin and/or fructooligosaccharides.

Claim 15 (previously presented) A method according to claim 8 in which the nutritional composition further comprises a source of glutamine.

Claim 16 (previously presented) A method according to claim 8 in which the composition is administered in an amount effective to increase the activity level of the pet.

Claim 17 (currently amended) A method for increasing the longevity of an elderly cat, the method comprising administering to the cat an effective amount of a nutritional composition which contains a calcium source, a zinc source,  $\beta$ -carotene at a level of at least 4 mg/1000 kcal, and vitamin E at a level of at least 75 IU/1000 kcal.

Claim 18 (original). A method according to claim 23 in which the elderly cat is administered a daily amount of at least about 0.25 mg/kg body weight of  $\beta$ -carotene, at least

about 3.5 IU/kg body weight of vitamin E, at least about 0.15 g/kg body weight of calcium and at least about 2.5 mg/kg body weight of zinc.

Claim 19 (currently amended) A method of increasing the activity level of an elderly cat, the method comprising administering to the cat an effective amount of a nutritional composition which contains a calcium source, a zinc source,  $\beta$ -carotene at a level of at least 4 mg/1000 kcal, and vitamin E at a level of at least 75 IU/1000 kcal.

Claims 20-24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (currently amended) A pet food for elderly pets cats, the pet food comprising a protein source, a lipid source, a calcium source, a zinc source,  $\beta$ -carotene at a level of at least 4 mg/1000 kcal, and vitamin E at a level of at least 75 IU/1000 kcal.

Claim 26 (original) A pet food according to claims 25 which comprises at least about 3 g/1000 kcal of calcium, at least about 50 mg/1000 kcal of zinc, at least about 5 mg/1000 kcal of  $\beta$ -carotene, and at least about 150 IU/1000 kcal of vitamin E.

Claim 27 (previously presented) A pet food according to claim 25 including a nutritional agent which promotes the growth of bifido- and lactic-bacteria in the gastro-intestinal tract of the pet.

Claim 28 (original) A pet food according to claim 27 in which the nutritional agent is selected from the group comprising prebiotics and probiotic micro-organisms.

Claim 29 (currently amended) A process method for reversing reducing a sign of aging in an elderly pet cat comprising the steps of providing a pet food composition comprising a source of calcium and a source of  $\beta$ -carotene and a source of vitamin E an antioxidant, making the composition available to a minder of an elderly pet and providing means of encouraging the pet minder to administer the said composition to the pet on a regular basis.

Claim 30 (currently amended) A process for maintaining or increasing total blood protein in an elderly ~~pet cat~~ comprises administering to the pet a foodstuff comprising a source of calcium and a source of  $\beta$ -carotene and a source of vitamin E an antioxidant.

Claim 31 (original) A process according to claim 36 wherein the foodstuff is capable of providing the pet a daily amount of at least about 0.25 mg/kg of the pet's body weight of  $\beta$ -carotene, at least about 3.5 IU/kg body weight of vitamin E, at least about 0.15 g/kg body weight of calcium and at least about 2.5 mg/kg body weight of zinc.

Claim 32 (currently amended) A method Use of a petfood composition for the increasing of total blood protein in an elderly ~~pet cat~~, the method comprising administering a composition having been formulated to provide at least about 0.25 mg/kg of the ~~pet's cat's~~ body weight of  $\beta$ -carotene, at least about 3.5 IU/kg body weight of vitamin E, at least about 0.15 g/kg body weight of calcium and at least about 2.5 mg/kg body weight of zinc when fed as a complete meal.

Claim 33 (currently amended) A method for increasing the Use of a petfood composition to increase physical energy levels in an elderly ~~pet cat~~, the method composition comprising administering an effective amount of a nutritional composition which contains a calcium source, a zinc source,  $\beta$ -carotene and vitamin vitamins D and E.

Claim 34 (currently amended) A method for reducing Use of a nutritional composition in reversing a sign of aging in an elderly ~~pet cat~~, the method comprising the step of administering a composition comprising a source of calcium, zinc,  $\beta$ -carotene, and a source of vitamin E an antioxidant.